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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/994,446 | 11/27/2001 | Richard C. Walker | 10004017-1 | 9514 |

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AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
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EXAMINER

CORRIELUS, JEAN B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2637

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/994,446 | Applicant(s) WALKER, RICHARD C. | |
| | Examiner Jean B Corielus | Art Unit 2637 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-27 and 33-36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 10, 14, 28, 32 and 37-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9, 11-13, 15-18 and 29-31 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-9 and 37 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 1, lines 6, shouldn't "a transition and data" be "a transition of". The same comment applies equally to claim 2-9, respectively. Claim 37 line 3 recites "the steps". However, the body of the claim only recites one step, namely "the using step". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jinbo et al US Patent No. 6,438,081.

As per claim 1, Jinbo et al discloses a multi phase sampling system having: a plurality of samplers (FFa-FFe), each sampler sampling a same input (24) when a clock signal of one of respective of phases (phases a-e) is received by respective sampler, each sampler sampling a transition of the input signal and outputting a respective output see drawing figs. 2 and 7 and col. 7, lines 52-59.

As per claims 2 and 37, the system includes an odd number of samplers see fig.

7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 4, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jinbo et al in view of LaRosa et al US patent No. 5,247,544.

As per claims 3 and 38, as applied to claim 1 above, Jinbo discloses every feature of the claimed invention but does not explicitly teach the generation of respective phase error based on each of the respective output signals. In the same field of endeavor, LaRosa discloses the further limitations of generating respective phase errors 347-353 from the output signal generated by the samplers (303-309). Given that fact, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to incorporate such a teaching in Jinbo et al in order to provide an estimate of the quality of the received signal so that proper correction can be made to ensure accurate recovery of the transmitted data signal see abstract, col. 1, lines 26-46 and col. 4, lines 27-52.

As per claims 4 and 39, note that LaRosa teaches a circuit 327 for phase shifting one or more of the phases in accordance with the respective phase error see col. 4, lines 35-52. Given that it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to incorporate

such a teaching in Jinbo et al and the reasons to do so would have been the same as provided above with respect to claim 3.

6. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jinbo et al.

As applied to claim 1 above, Jinbo discloses every feature of the claimed invention but does not teach explicitly that the multiphase system is a receiver in communication with a multiphase transmitter. However, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to implement the multiphase system in a receiver in communication with a multiphase transmitter in order to satisfy system design requirements.

As per claim 6, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to incorporate the multiphase system in a transmitter and the reasons to do so would have been the same as provided with respect to claim 5.

7. Claims 10, 14, 28, 32, 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jinbo et al in view of LaRosa et al US patent No. 5,247,544.

As per claims 10 and 28, Jinbo discloses a system comprising a first sampling device FFa configured to receive a first data signal 24 and a first clock signal clk1 and includes a first sampling logic configured to sample the first data signal when the first clock signal is received and to generate a first output signal see fig. 7; a second sampling device FFb configured to received the first data signal 24 and a second clock signal clk2 and

includes a second sampling logic configured to sample the first data signal when the second clock signal is received and to generate a second output signal see fig. 7; a third sampling device FFc configured to received the first data signal 24 and a third clock signal clk3 and includes a third sampling logic configured to sample the first data signal when the third clock signal is received and to generate a third output signal see fig. 7; a phase discrimination portion 40 for generating a phase error in response to the first second and third output signals. However, Jinbo et al does not explicitly teach the generation of respective phase error based on each of the respective output signals and a phase shifter for shifting the phase of at least one of the first second or third phases in accordance with the respective first second and third phase error indications. In the same field of endeavor, LaRosa discloses the further limitations of generating respective phase errors 347-353 from the output signal generated by the samplers (303-309). LaRosa teaches a circuit 327 for phase shifting one or more of the phases in accordance with the respective phase error see col. 4, lines 35-52. Given that fact, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to incorporate such a teaching in Jinbo et al in order to provide an estimate of the quality of the received signal so that proper correction can be made to ensure accurate recovery of the transmitted data signal see abstract, col. 1, lines 26-46 and col. 4, lines 27-52.

As per claims 14, 32 and 41, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to configure the phase determination circuit based on an Alexander Phase determination Truth Table algorithm in order to take advantage of its enhanced technological features.

As per claim 40, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to create a program code to perform the function of the device as recited in the claim 10, for instance, in order to eliminate the need for acquiring physical components that can be expensive to implement the system.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 7-9, 11-13, 15-18, 29-31 a are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


9. Claims 19-27, 33-36 are allowed.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean B Corrielus whose telephone number is 571-272-3020. The examiner can normally be reached on Maxi-Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on 571-272-3086. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2637

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jean B Corrielus
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2637 5/3/05